

Love letters

Make words that have meaning to you and your family, or decorate a child's room with their name for some handcrafted love.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Craft papier mâché letters L, O, V, E
- Pencil and ruler
- Craft knife
- Florist foam
- Hot glue and glue gun
- Faux flowers and foliage
- Resene paint brush and paint. We used:
 - Resene Soulful
 - Resene Porsche
 - Resene Paper Doll
 - Resene Melting Moment



1 Lay out the letters as they will be displayed. Using a pencil and ruler, rule angled lines on each letter where you plan to remove part of the letter's top – approximately a third to a half should be ideal to fill with flowers (A). Use a craft knife to carefully cut along this line, then continue to cut along the inside edges to remove an entire piece of the top layer of the letter (B).

NOTE: This top piece you have removed will be used as a template for the shape of the florist foam (C).

2 The inside structure of the letter will now be revealed. Remove anything that is inside (B), so it can be easily filled with foam.

3 Lay the cut-out piece of lettering on top of the florist foam to use as a template. Use a craft knife to cut around it. Make the depth of the foam 1cm less than the depth of the papier mâché letter. Hot glue the foam into the letter (D).

4 Paint the letters, using two coats. Use different colours for each letter, choosing shades that work with your decor. We chose Resene Soulful, Resene Porsche, Resene Paper Doll and Resene Melting Moment. Allow to dry between coats (E).

5 Once the letters are dry, start adding foliage and flowers. Trim the stems so they are just long enough to poke into the foam. Fill each section, making sure there are no spaces visible. Use hot glue to hold any loose pieces (F).

NOTE: When you begin to place the flowers and foliage, start with a couple of big flowers first, leaving space between them. Work around them with other smaller flowers and foliage. It's also nice to have some foliage pieces that hang down, creating a more natural look.

